

To: File

From: Michael Jensen, DOE GC-71

Date: July 27, 2010

Re: Ex parte discussion with California Department of Housing and Community Development

On July 27, 2010, Michael Jensen (GC-71), Kate Gehringer (GC-52), Harry Indig (EE-2J), Bob Lucas (PNL), and Dave Conover (PNL) spoke with Kevin Cimini, Richard Weinert, and Bradley Harward, all of the California Department of Housing and Community Development, on their office's role as a State Administrative Agency (SAA) under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) manufactured housing program.

First, Mr. Cimini explained that California's role as an SAA is to monitor defects in construction of manufactured homes as specified in 24 C.F.R. 3282, Subpart I, and indicated that California no longer serves either as a design approval primary inspection agency or a production inspection primary inspection agency under the HUD program.

Mr. Cimini noted that California relies on consumer complaints, manufacturer reporting, installer reporting, and SAA record audits and investigations to monitor the manufactured housing industry within the state. Mr. Cimini approximated that California receives thirty to fifty consumer complaints each year and that energy-related complaints are extremely rare. Mr. Cimini stated that California initiates approximately thirty to forty enforcement actions each year, almost all of which settle soon after initiation. Mr. Cimini mentioned that the last case that did not settle soon after enforcement proceedings were initiated occurred five years ago; however, this case eventually settled without the need for an informal or formal presentation of views.

Mr. Cimini stated that California inspects new home installations in mobile home parks under HCD jurisdiction and that building code officials inspect all other new manufactured home installations. Mr. Cimini mentioned that local building officials performing installation inspections are not as familiar with the federal regulations and may not be as thorough as they could be. California issues permits and inspects all manufactured home alteration projects regardless of location. Mr. Cimini estimated that sixty percent of manufactured homes within California are located on private property while an estimated forty percent are located in manufactured home parks. Mr. Cimini also noted that California has approximately fifty staff members that conduct inspections and audits of manufactured homes.

Mr. Cimini noted that not many manufactured homes are using renewable resources as energy resources, including photovoltaic and geothermal systems. Finally, Mr. Cimini recommended Oregon and Nebraska state agencies as other points of contacts.

End of conversation.